In the 1880s, New Englanders flocked to theatres and outdoor venues to see historical reenactments of American antebellum life. Many of these shows, however, extended demoralizing racial stereotypes that were at the core of minstrelsy and blackface performances. This talk by Lois Brown, Assistant Professor of English, analyzes the politics of racialized historical reenactments and considers the nature of racial uplift and cultural critique that shaped New England's continued recovery from America's history of enslavement.

Five College Events

Tuesday, February 17
Conversations About Education in East Africa
Presented by Kenneth Sentamu & Students
5-7 pm, Malcolm X Cultural Center, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

February 20-22, Smith College
New Aesthetics of Blackness—What It Means to be Black in America today
A conference at Smith College starts a discussion on what it means to be Black in America in the 21st century. Main Speaker, Kevin Powell, will open the conference asking "In the light of the recent political environment, what does it mean to be African American/Black in America?" There will be panel discussions on the challenges that people of African descent face in education, healthcare and business. Interactions between Black Americans and members of the African/Caribbean Diaspora and the issue of the color complex will be also be discussed.

Tuesday, February 24
From Auction Block to Hip-Hop, A Between the Lines Play
Producers of Platanos & Collard Greens have created a new must see play! Written by David Lam, Directed by: SummerHill Seven
7PM, Bowker Auditorium, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Friday, February 27
Harlem Gospel Choir
Hear the amazing Harlem Gospel Choir as they perform as part of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr 2009 Celebration.
8:00 P.M., Buckley Recital Hall, Arms Music Center

Wednesday, February 25
Do Black Women have a Responsibility to Give Back to their Community?
Taboo Series Event
What is your definition of success? Are you successful when you earn a large salary? Or when you are able to give back to your community? If there is a sense of responsibility, what is it specifically? What can Black Women do collectively to give back and ensure our later generations needs are taken care of? Discussion open to all.
4:30-6pm, Room 208, Blanchard Campus Center
Facilitated By: Tamika Smith (Student Programs) and members of the BHM Committee

Saturday, February 28
Morning at the Art Museum
Bring your inner child to an activity filled morning highlighting the vibrant works of Faith Ringgold. Enjoy an interactive, theatrical reading of one of Ringgold’s books; a crafts table open to all, and an area to interpret and question Ringgold’s works. An entire exhibition is available to the general public for further viewing. Do attend if you would like to partake in this family day event and witness children’s imagination being ignited.
9:30am – 5:30pm, Gamble Auditorium, Art Building

Contractions About Education in East Africa

Sunday, February 7

Special Exhibition: In the Rodney L. White Print Room
Over 40 years Faith Ringgold has been creating and adding her truth to various forms of art including paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, and most famously-in quilts where she adds her experiences as an African American woman, mother, daughter, and artist. The exhibition will focus on her works on paper of the last 30 years.

For more information please call MHC Art Museum: 413-538-2245

Hours: Tuesday-Friday 11am-5pm, weekends, 1-5pm

Monday, February 16th
Documentary Film: Souls of Black Girls
Filmed by Daphne Valerius as she captures the answers to tough questions that directly pertain to women of color. Featured at the 2007 Pan African Film and Arts Festival with interviews by Jada Pinkett Smith, Regina King, and Chuck D.
A panel discussion facilitated by Dr. Zetta Elliott will follow with Visiting Professor of English Literature Gayle Pemberton and Naima McQueen as panel members.
7:30-9:30pm, Gamble Auditorium, Art Building

Monday, February 23
"Race-ing the Curtain": Performing Race in Post-Slavery America

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49M, Five College Women's Resource Center